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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DINT-01	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	H-01
	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIS-01
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/064W		

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1097

RELEASED IN FULL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 004813

FOR ARA AND ARA/SC; ALSO FOR S/CT

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PREL, AR, UN
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF INTERIOR REQUESTS
COUNTERTERRORISM BRIEFING

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: INTERIOR MINISTER RUCKAUF ASKED CHARGE TO SET UP COUNTERTERRORISM BRIEFING DURING THE MINISTER'S BRIEF VISIT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WE RESPOND POSITIVELY. RUCKAUF ALSO SAID GOA WOULD
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BE PROPOSING CREATION OF A U.N. ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD.
END SUMMARY.

3. MORNING OF JULY 21, CHARGE MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR CARLOS RUCKAUF AND VICE MINISTER ALBERTO IRIBARNE. CHARGE BRIEFED RUCKAUF AND HIS DEPUTY ON OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM, WHICH ARRIVED THE PREVIOUS DAY, WHICH IS WORKING WITH GOA AUTHORITIES ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE JULY 18 BOMBING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING (AMIA). RUCKAUF HAD JUST

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RETURNED FROM A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THREE LEADERS OF THE AMIA ORGANIZATION AND SEEMED VERY RELAXED DESPITE SPECULATION THAT HIS HEAD MIGHT ROLL AS PRESIDENT MENEM SHAKES UP HIS SECURITY TEAM IN THE WAKE OF THE BOMBING.

4. THE MINISTER ASKED CHARGE IF USG COULD ARRANGE A SPECIAL COUNTERTERRORISM BRIEFING FOR HIM. HE PLANS TO BE IN THE FORT MYERS, FLORIDA AREA JULY 26-27, AND ASKED IF A U.S. EXPERT (OR EXPERTS) COULD MEET PRIVATELY WITH HIM THERE. RUCKAUF IS INTERESTED IN A BROAD BRIEFING COVERING:

(1) ANY INFORMATION ON TERRORISM ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE JULY 18 BOMBING;

(2) BACKGROUND ON SIMILAR INCIDENTS AND THEIR INVESTIGATIONS; AND

(3) ANALYSIS OF ORGANIZATIONS MOST LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE.

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AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, RUCKAUF WILL BE COORDINATING THE BOMBING INVESTIGATION AND WILL BE MANAGING THE POLITICAL FALLOUT FOR PRESIDENT MENEM.

5. RUCKAUF IS A FIRM FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, AND HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT CONTACT FOR YEARS. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WE RESPOND POSITIVELY TO HIS REQUEST.

6. RUCKAUF'S ENGLISH IS NOT UP TO A BRIEFING; HIS INTERLOCUTORS SHOULD BE SPANISH-SPEAKING. PRINTED MATERIALS ON THE SUBJECT WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY APPRECIATED, PARTICULARLY ANYTHING IN SPANISH. MINISTER RUCKAUF WILL BE ARRIVING IN THE FORT MYERS AREA AROUND NOON ON TUESDAY, JULY 26, AND WILL DEPART FOR BUENOS AIRES AT 8:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27. HIS ADDRESS IN THE U.S. WILL BE:

2445 WEST GOLF DRIVE
APARTMENT A-7
POINT SANTO DE SANIBEL, FLORIDA
PHONE: (813) 395-0886

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PLEASE ADVISE AT LATEST COB JULY 22 IF WE CAN
ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST. RUCKAUF PLANS TO DEPART
BUENOS AIRES JULY 23.

7. RUCKAUF ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE GOA WAS CONSIDERING
TABLING A PROPOSAL IN THE UNITED NATIONS FOR CREATION OF
A "COMBAT-READY" U.N. ANTI-TERRORIST FORCE. CHARGE

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ASKED IF THIS WAS SOMETHING PRESIDENT MENEM PLANNED TO
RAISE AT THE UNGA. THE MINISTER THOUGHT THAT WAS
POSSIBLE,
BUT HE ALSO SAW IT AS AN ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE
SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN DECEMBER. HE SAID WE WOULD BE
HEARING MORE ABOUT THE IDEA FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

8. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT RUCKAUF IS BONING UP ON
TERRORISM AND IS RELAXED ENOUGH TO TRAVEL ABROAD
INDICATES HE IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT LOSING HIS JOB. WE
HAVE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT THE ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD IDEA
FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. BUT AS WE FOUND WITH MENEM'S
"WHITE HELMETS" INITIATIVE, THE PRESIDENT IS SOMETIMES
QUITE TAKEN WITH GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. THIS ONE MAY BE
PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE AS A HELPFUL RESPONSE TO
CRITICISM OF HIS GOVERNMENT OVER THE BOMBING.
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